

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 3. (canceled)

1           4. (new) A method of stabilizing pile carpet, tufted  
2 carpet or plush carpet having a backing support layer in which  
3 pile-forming yarns are anchored by needling to project to a front  
4 visible side whose structure and quality must not be modified, the  
5 method comprising the steps of sequentially:

6           applying to a back face of the backing support layer and  
7 the yarns exposed there an intermediate layer formed by a hot-melt  
8 powder, short-staple fusible fibers or a hot-melt film;

9           hydrodynamically needling the intermediate layer into the  
10 backing support from the back side to integrate the intermediate  
11 layer with the backing layer and yarns there;

12           heat-treating the needled intermediate layer from the  
13 back side to fuse the intermediate layer into the backing layer and  
14 yarns exposed there;

15           covering the heat-treated intermediate layer with a  
16 nonwoven; and

17           hydrodynamically needling the nonwoven against the heat-  
18 treated intermediate layer to anchor the nonwoven on the backing  
19 support layer.

1           5. (new) A pile carpet made by the steps of  
2 sequentially:

3           applying to a back face of the backing support layer and  
4 the yarns exposed there an intermediate layer formed by a hot-melt  
5 powder, short-staple fusible fibers or a hot-melt film;

6           hydrodynamically needling the intermediate layer into the  
7 backing support from the back side to integrate the intermediate  
8 layer with the backing layer and yarns there;

9           heat-treating the needled intermediate layer from the  
10 back side to fuse the intermediate layer into the backing layer and  
11 yarns exposed there;

12          covering the heat-treated intermediate layer with a  
13 nonwoven; and

14          hydrodynamically needling the nonwoven against the heat-  
15 treated intermediate layer to anchor the nonwoven on the backing  
16 support layer.